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DONOVAN'S ROLE AS 'AGENT' DENIED

"Optimistic" Donovan return from talks in Havana .. Page

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Washington, Oct. 11—Edwin M. Martin, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, denied today that James B. Donovan, New York attorney, was acting as an "agent" of the United States Government in his negotiations for the release of 1,113 Cuban invasion prisoners.

Martin said that Donovan, Democratic candidate for United States Senate and the man who negotiated the release of Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot, from Russia, was "acting solely for the Cuban families."

Donovan left Havana today with his ransom negotiations with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro bogged down on several details.

Demands Investigation

Meanwhile, Representative Cramer (R., Fla.) demanded an immediate investigation on reports that Government funds might be used to pay for a large share of the ransom to free the prisoners.

The GOP congressman made his request in letters to Representative Cannon (D., Mo.), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Representative Morgan (D., Pa.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Cramer said he was "deeply disturbed" that "dollars from CIA funds" might be used to pay Castro for the prisoners' freedom.

"This is about the greatest abuse of Presidential discretion I can remember in the history of this country," wrote the Floridian. He added that he could not recall any legislation that would allow the President to pay ransom or to give in to "black-

mail threats by an enemy government, and in particular, Fidel Castro."

"If the Congress does not stop this unwholesome, degrading and humiliating black mail deal, the prestige of the United States will be forever irreparably harmed," declared Cramer.

When Cramer made the same demands on the House floor, he was chided by Representative O'Hara (D., Ill.), the sole surviving veteran of the Spanish-American War now in Congress.

Cramer might be a good man "to lead the army if an invasion of Cuba ever came," O'Hara said.

"If he shoots as loud as he talks, Lord help the enemy," added the Democrat.

Cramer has been one of the most vocal agitators in Congress for action against Cuba.

Martin, top official on Latin America, did not indicate whether or not Government funds might eventually have to be used.

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"Humanitarian Function"

He said the Government was sympathetic to the fund-raising activities of the prisoner families. Martin said they had "an important humanitarian function to perform."

The Assistant Secretary largely reiterated the views of Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, saying the Administration was "doing what can be done to try to bring about a change in the Cuban Government."

The Administration, Martin said, would "welcome a new regime" and "assist it massively and promptly to restore Cuba economically, socially and politically to its previous position."

Martin said it would not be wise to try to accomplish this by using force or by resorting to a blockade of the island state.

"The choice of means for dealing with the problem has to be adapted to the nature of the problem," he explained, "and to the global position in which we are."

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NEGOTIATOR RETURNS—James Donovan (right) is escorted at Miami International Air- port on arrival from Havana where he has been seeking release of captives of Cubans.